# NEWS RELEASE

## IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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**www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/watplan/planning/iwrb_home.htm**

### Release 2003-31

### PRIEST LAKE PLAN CHANGE MEETING
### SET FOR WEDNESDAY IN PRIEST RIVER

For Immediate Release                                    For Media Information Contact:
Boise, Idaho – June 16, 2003                               Bill Graham - (208) 327-7966

The Idaho Water Resource Board will hold a special public information meeting Wednesday evening (June 18) in Priest River to explain changes the Board wants to make in the way water is released from Priest Lake, Board officials are reminding area residents.

The public information meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Priest River Junior High School library, 1020 Albeni Highway.  The Board will also hold a public hearing on the proposal June 26 in Sandpoint.

The Idaho Water Resource Board wants to change its Priest River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan to enhance kokanee salmon restoration by lowering the lake surface level faster starting October 1 until it reaches 0.0 feet at the lake outlet gauge by November 1 of each year. Existing operations lower levels gradually throughout the fall and winter until it reaches the prescribed level of 0.0 feet at the lake outlet by December 31st as required by Idaho law.

The move would mean flow levels in the lower Priest River of up to 2,500 Cubic Feet Per Second during the fall release period.  Flow levels during the release period would be gradually increased by up to 500 CFS per day. The public review period for the proposal runs until August 4. Details of the proposed plan amendments can be viewed on the Internet at: www.idwr.state.id.us/waterboard/planning/development.htm.

Both the public information meeting and the public hearing will be held in a facility that meets accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need assistance to attend, participate in or understand the events please contact Bill Graham, (208) 327-7966, in advance so arrangements can be made.

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